

CHANGES IN FUTURE SNAP (FOOD STAMP) BENEFITS

This letter is to inform you about upcoming changes to your SNAP benefits.

What changes in October?

Every October, SNAP benefits are adjusted to reflect changes in the cost of living. Some households may see a small increase in the amount of their benefits because of changes in the amounts used to calculate deductions.

What changes in November?

In April 2009, Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (also known as the Stimulus), which raised SNAP benefits to help households affected by the recession.

The increased benefits provided by the Stimulus will expire on November 1, 2013.

So SNAP recipients will see two changes this fall. First, benefits will increase slightly for most households in October to reflect the cost of living changes. Then, most households will see a **decrease in November** and thereafter due to the end of the extra benefits the stimulus provided.

How much will benefits decrease?

The decrease in benefits will average around 5.4%.

- For example, a household of two, getting \$367, will get \$20 less.
- The amount of each household's change depends on household size, income, and expenses.

How will I know how much is posted to my account on my issuance day?

Check your balance after your benefits have posted but before you shop. To check your balance, you can:

- Call the EBT customer toll free number on the back of your EBT card, at 1-866-281-2448;
- Go to the EBT website www.ebt.acs-inc.com, click on the Virginia logo, and follow the prompts.

We know that managing with reduced benefits will be difficult, but these changes are required by federal law and we cannot stop it.

For more information, visit <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/snap.cgi>

Para español, vea la parte de atrás.